



INCORPORATED:  
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# Village of Youngstown

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## Village of Youngstown Board of Trustees Minutes – July 13, 2023

**PRESENT:** Mayor Reisman, Trustee Quarantillo, Trustee Stella, Trustee Stevens, Building Inspector Stevens, Attorney Caserta, Chief Paul, Recreation Director Gruarin, Superintendent Quarantillo, Engineer Lannon, Clerk-Treasurer Brown. **ABSENT:** Deputy Mayor Heath.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Reisman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Reisman opened the meeting to public comment.

**PUBLIC COMMENT--all comments shall be kept to 3 minutes and directed to the Village Board of Trustees.**

Rick Lohr addressed the Board regarding a request to remove the sewer charges from his water/sewer bill for the El Dorado Marina location. Mr. Lohr feels that sewer should be removed from the bill as there is no sewer at that location. Mr. Lohr asked for a compromise if it cannot be waived, to have just a minimum bill for sewer at that location regardless of gallonage used. Mr. Lohr stated he would like sewer hook up and perhaps it would also benefit the Village's North Dock building.

Mark Butera of Anchor Spirits and the YBPA shared information on the YBPA statistics and events and grants as well as their history in the Village.

Tim Adamson of Church Street and Town of Porter YBPA Liaison addressed the Board noting his support for the YBPA and all they do for the Village. Mr. Adamson noted the grants for brochures and street dances and participation in past picnics. Mr. Adamson wanted the Board to know the enhancements the group brings.

Melissa Kudel -Bandana's Restaurant address the Board in regards to the Street Dance. Ms. Kudel noted she was in charge of organizing the vendors for the event and asked The Great Foodini to participate. In past years she noted there were issues with not enough food at the event. Ms. Kudel noted she was not aware a permit was needed for food trucks in the Village. Ms. Kudel noted she has read the code and it is confusing. Ms. Kudel was embarrassed about the removal of the food truck at the event so close to the event beginning and had tried to do good for all. Ms. Kudell would like an explanation of how this can be avoided in the future.

Deb Fox of Lockport Street addressed the Board noting that there are two signs on 93 near the viaduct with a Youngstown sign and parking requirements. The signs are impeding the view of the homeowner and Mrs. Fox would like to know if they can be moved. Mayor Reisman asked DPW Superintendent Quarantillo to check on the signs.

Steve Zastrow of Lake Street and YBPA member addressed the Board regarding the removal of a food truck at the Street Dance. Mr. Zastrow noted it was unfortunate and unnecessary. Mr. Zastrow inquired as to that went wrong and how to avoid it in the future.

Mark Fox of Lockport Street addressed the Board regarding the Cold Storage building. Mr. Fox asked the status of what is being done with the building. Mr. Fox reviewed some of the past activities with trying to manage the site including when he was Deputy Mayor and the handling during that time. Mr. Fox noted he sent two emails to Mayor Reisman last August that were not answered, and was advised by the Deputy Mayor they would not be answered. Mr. Fox noted the site had a chance to be put back on the tax rolls last year via a proposal and was not. Mr. Fox does not believe the grant applied for should be waited for any longer. Mr. Fox requested to Building Inspector Stevens that the building be condemned at this time. Mayor Reisman noted that the grant is still open and we are awaiting a response from the State. Mayor Reisman also noted last August he spoke directly with the person that submitted the proposal for the site. Mayor Reisman noted if the property could be retained by the Village through the grant, it would benefit the Village. Mayor Reisman noted we need to do what is best for the taxpayers. Trustee Stella added that we are not giving away property for \$1, we would try to get the most possible for the tax payers. Building Inspector Stevens noted that there had been at least 7 formal RFP's received over the years on the property.

Donna Attardo from the Great Foodini addressed the Board. Ms. Attardo noted she was looking for answers as to why she was targeted and made to leave the Street Dance. Ms. Attardo noted she gave up another job to come to the street dance and then was turned away from the Street Dance. Ms. Attardo stated she reviewed our code and the way it reads everyone there should have had a permit. Ms. Attardo stated she wants to know what had been done and what action is happening, adding she would like to be reimbursed for the money she lost.

## **DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS**

**POLICE:** Veterans Park / cold Storage - Officers have been making checks of the two aforementioned areas. and have been doing so for some time. As the Board is aware historically the summer months as a general rule shows an uptick in nuisance calls and calls involving minors. Additional Officers are needed to help fill the vacancies that exist within the department. with only two officers working and myself it is difficult to cover peak hours. With that, in mind, I am requesting the appointment of two Patrol Officers to help combat the issue of speeding and traffic complaints within the village. Officer Matthew J. Cipollitti is a 20+ year veteran of the Erie County Sheriff's Office has

extensive training and I believe would be an asset to the Village. Officer Cipollitti Is a lifelong resident of Lewiston NY. The second Officer will be named shortly.

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:** We used a fire truck from YVFC to power wash the goose poo off of the South Dock on Water St, as each year it turns into a breeding ground for geese. We installed new games at the Village Center for recreation. The playground at Falkner Park has a weed issue that we constantly having to weed! We are looking into how to get rid of them on a parament basis. Now that Gary and Drew have their pesticide license, they have been fertilizing Falkner Park and now spraying for weed control. The park benches for the South Dock are just about complete” We work on them during rain days”. The bushes at the Rec building and the Veterans Memorial have been trimmed and weeded. The cold storage had a piece of wood ripped off so we had to go and resecure the building. We had an issue with lighting at both the North and South Docks that were taken care of, along with the Veterans Memorial. We worked in conjunction with the PD to set up for the street dance which again was another success We had our annual boiler inspection at the Village Center which passed. Truck 16 “the newer red truck” had a recall which was addressed and fixed. As usual, we continue to mow, empty garbage, clean bathrooms, and maintain the village every week.

**ENGINEER:** 110 Main Street – David Riley subdivision – I will sign the subdivision plat this week Vic Battey’s subdivision proposal – nothing further on my end at the moment. REDI Project – the Mayor and I met with YYC on June 29 to review the project and discuss impacts/schedule. REDI Project amendment – discuss/request authorization of the amendment.

**BUILDING INSPECTOR:** In the month of June we had 10 completed building permits. In addition, we have had 3 complaints 2 of which are resolved, 1 is in the process.

**ATTORNEY:** No update

**CLERKS OFFICE:** The Clerk’s Office has finished collection for June of property taxes. Collection will continue through the end of September with any remaining unpaid bills being turned over to the County for collection. Water bills were generated and mail for July 1, and we are in process of collection of those bills. We have begun working with our new Audit firm of Tronconni Segarra & Associates. They have been great to work with so far. We are gathering information needed for them to prepare the Annual Update Document for the State. We will then continue to gather and prepare information needed for the Audit that is scheduled for the last week of August. We will be hosting the Niagara County Municipal Clerk’s Association meeting this month. Amy and I will be attending fall training school in September for NYCOM. We have handed the water/sewer rate increase process, summer concert schedule for the Trustees and getting contracts signed. Email information was provided on the lift station project for the Town of Porter. We had a planning hearing for a sub division on Main Street that is complete

at this time. We have also been working on the new gym rental process and special use permits that are required for upcoming events in the Village.

**RECREATION:** Still waiting for the shipping of the (4) new disc golf holes. Perfect seal reached out, going to set up a date to tape the courts and get the project going. Falkner Park starts Wednesday July 5<sup>th</sup> and the Vets Programs July 6<sup>th</sup> (every Tuesday & Thursday). Disc Golf: Sam asked about going into the woods with a cage or tee pad. Greg said there are some dry areas. I thought about 10' if we were able and chose to do so. Sam said it would make it an attraction and they have club members who volunteer to maintain the area if necessary. The boxes are built according to the DPW so once we do the layout, they can start the work. DPW also straightened the volleyball poles and we ordered a new net. DPW is going to spray the sand and then we can maintain. The idea is to see how long a spray application works and if we only have to do it once/twice a season it may be worth it. Hopefully with the new net people will use it.

#### **AGENDA:**

##### **ABSTRACT OF AUDITED VOUCHERS:**

Approval of the Abstract of Audited Vouchers for the period from June 9-July 13, 2023 and in the amount of \$120,474.47.

General:	\$44,164.30
Water:	\$24,833.75
Sewer:	\$19,638.51
H Capital:	\$26,422.95
Trust:	<u>\$ 5,414.96</u>
Total	\$120,474.47

Mayor Reisman noted with the new microphone system in the board room, we are now ADA compliant. Motion to approve the abstract of audited vouchers was made by Trustee Stella, seconded by Trustee Quarantillo. All in favor, motion was carried.

#### **ITEMS:**

Approval of Recreation hire Kelsey Jeffs effective 7/6/23 at a rate of \$14.20/hr.

Motion to approve hiring of Kelsey Jeffs effective 7/6/23 was made by Trustee Stella, seconded by Trustee Quarantillo. All in favor, motion was carried.

Authorization for Mayor Reisman to sign the annual software support contract for Water/Sewer Billing with Williamson Law Books in the amount of \$1,496.00.

Motion to approve the authorization for Mayor Reisman to sign the annual software agreement was made by Trustee Quarantillo, seconded by Trustee Stevens, all in favor, motion was carried.

Request for letter of support from Bob Emerson, Old Fort Niagara, for request for Niagara County Funding for the Niagara County Arts & Cultural Organizations.

Motion to approve the letter of support was made by Trustee Stella, seconded by Trustee Stevens. All in favor, motion was carried.

REDI amendment from GHD.

Engineer Lannon explained the need for the amendment of \$154,000.00. The design has changed several times over the project. Money will be freed up from sheet piling not needed so there should be enough contingency funds to cover any issues. The project should start late fall to avoid issues with the businesses on Water Street and be completed in Spring. Superintendent Quarantillo and Building Inspector Stevens added the need for a dry hydrant for pumping water from the river in case of a fire as it is not operational at this point. Engineer Lannon said this could be looked at from contingency in this project. Trustee Stevens asked if contractors were lined up yet. Engineer Lannon noted that would not be until the bid process was initiated.

Motion to approve the request for an amendment to the REDI project for GHD was made by Trustee Stevens, seconded by Trustee Stella. All in favor, motion was carried.

Authorization for in house training to be accepted as the State mandated 4-hour training requirement for the Village of Youngstown Planning and Zoning Boards.

Motion to approve in house training for the State mandated 4-hour training was made by Trustee Stella, seconded by Trustee Quarantillo. All in favor, motion was carried.

Authorization for Mayor Reisman to enter into the agreement for purchase of the property at 120 Lockport Street, Youngstown in the amount of \$150,000.00 to be executed July 2023.

Motion to approve the authorization for Mayor Reisman to enter into the purchase agreement was made by Trustee Stella, seconded by Trustee Stevens. All in favor, motion was carried.

#### **BOARD CONSIDERATION ON THE FOLLOWING:**

Consideration of application for special use permit for Historic Youngstown Festival of the Arts 7/22/23.

Mayor Reisman asked Building Inspector Stevens where the permit process was at this time. Building Inspector Stevens advised he needed more time to review the information as it was just received in the office. Mr. Barry should refer to code chapter 141 to help with the process. Mayor Reisman moved to table the permit approval until the required information for the permit was reviewed and any concerns could be reviewed with Mr. Barry.

## River Rum Runner's Scenic Boat Tours.

Mayor Reisman stated that he had been approached about River Rum Runner using the docks in the Village and asked they attend the meeting tonight. Libby Broderick introduced herself and gave a description of the business they are starting. This will be a tiki boat ride for 6 people, on a 23 ft catamaran. They have received the licensing necessary. Building Inspector Stevens advised they refer to chapter 141 of our code for information needed. Building Inspector Stevens also asked if a dedicated space on the dock would be needed and noted there would be a fee to use the docks. Building Inspector Stevens advised the Board he could come up with a fee structure for this venture that would be fair to the Village and a new business starting out and would get details to the Board. It was noted that up to 6 parking spots could be occupied, there may be three tours. Trustee Stella asked if all their Coast Guard inspections were passed and if they had Captains. Ms. Broderick confirmed everything had been approved and received, and they had several Captains. They will be docked in Lewiston and would like to begin as soon as possible.

The Board moved to table this request pending receipt of further information needed from Building Inspector Stevens and Ms. Broderick with the understanding Ms. Broderick wanted to start as soon as possible.

Metal detecting on Village property- Attorney Caserta is to draft language for a permit. Board set fee at \$100.00 (note this is a change to the code as there is no fee structure noted in the code so a hearing would be in order). Stipulation by the Board was to exclude Falkner Park, Ms. Rath asked that be reconsidered. New request received from Kathleen Clark for metal detecting in Veterans and Falkner Park.

Attorney Caserta noted that the code will have to be updated and a public hearing would be required. Building Inspector Stevens added he felt this should not take place in Falkner Park as the Board had previously noted. After discussion the Board was in agreement with the addition that metal detecting in Falkner Park will not be allowed as part of this code. Attorney Caserta will begin the language on the code and forward.

Request from Ray Barry to utilize the electric at Veteran's Park for his Village Music Fest event August 5, 2023. Mr. Barry will have Severson set it up and hire a third-party electrical inspector for certification. This will be the same manner as last year's event (was being reviewed last meeting)

Motion to approve the use of the electric for the 8/5/23 event was made by Trustee Stella, seconded by Trustee Stevens pending receipt on the noted paperwork from Severson and the third-party inspector. All in favor, motion was carried.

Request from Tani Wojcinski to allow Allison Dorries to use her second hour of gym rental. Attorney Caserta has noted that Ms. Wojcinski would need to sign an agreement to hold the Village harmless during Ms. Dorrie's use of the gym during Ms. Wojcinski's building use.

The Board discussed the subcontracting request from Ms. Wojcinski. The Board was in agreement that the building use would stay with the person approved and any hours within that time could not be subcontracted out.

Motion that subcontracting hours during a building use that has been approved for a person/business not be allowable was made by Trustee Stevens, seconded by Trustee Stella. All in favor, motion was carried.

### **BUILDING REQUEST:**

Request from Youngstown Junior Sailing to use the grounds south of the Yacht Club for tenting for guests to their Regatta on July 17-19. There will be 10-15 tents, insurance is on file.

Motion to approve the use noting the area must be cleaned up by the group was made by Trustee Quarantillo, seconded by Trustee Stella. Superintendent Quarantillo noted there are many sprinkler heads over in that area that he will mark out so there are no issues with any tent stakes being inserted into the sprinkler heads. All in favor, motion was carried.

### **BOARD REPORTS:**

Trustee Stella reported that the Chamber has a business blender coming up. Also, the Chambers is accepting nominations in six categories including member of the year. The Chamber is also updating their strategic plan and looking for volunteers for upcoming events including, Porterfest this coming Saturday.

Trustee Stevens reported that she continues to work on the clean energy initiative and the National Grid EV program. The second company came and reviewed sites for the charging stations and she is waiting on their proposal.

Trustee Quarantillo noted she sent an email inquiring about liaisons being appointed by Mayor Reisman. Mayor Reisman noted that they can be appointed at any time and all current appointments are still in effect. Trustee Quarantillo will remain liaison for the Recreation Commission.

Mayor Reisman gave a report updating things that have occurred over the last year. The Police Department has a new Chief and Officers and things are being reorganized. The DA pursued charges on an individual in relation to this and restitution was received. There was a request to take the water tower down by the property owners in that area. Meetings have taken place and the Village is in the process of purchasing the property which will become a revenue source for us as well. The contract for the YVFC has been signed for a five-year term at a 2% increase

yearly along with the cancer coverage share for the Village. The garbage contract with Modern Disposal has been extended for two years. The contract will change and cost and requirements will change as well. The collective bargaining contract has been agreed upon with the DPW staff for a four-year term. The noise ordinance was updated for the business district to extend hours until 11:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. There is now a 501 C 3 group called Friends of Youngstown headed by Christine Rath that will open many doors for fundraising for the Village. There is now an updated Board room with technology and microphone system for use. Mayor Reisman noted he would like to applaud everyone's efforts in the endeavors.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

The next Village Board meeting will be August 10, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

So noted.

With no further business, motion to adjourn the regular meeting was made at 8:05 p.m. by Trustee Quarantillo, seconded by Trustee Stevens. All in favor, motion was carried.

Submitted by:

Wendy Brown